

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Location: Kent County Administration Building, 555 Bay Road, Dover

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marianne Cinaglia (DeEASI)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council) via conference call
Brian Nixon (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)

Members absent: George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)

Non-members present: Jim Short (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Kim Foster (DNREC) Paul Sparks (Cascade Eng.)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:37 P.M.

Public Comments - None

Approval of Minutes April 16, 2014 Meeting

The April minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Yard Waste Letter

BJ presented the latest version of the letter to the Council. After some review there was discussion. The Council agreed that the letter should be addressed to the Joint Finance Committee and copied to the General Assembly. There were other minor word changes. The Council unanimously (with the exception of Marj abstaining) passed a motion to send the letter with minor changes. The revised version will be sent to Council Members prior to it being sent to the JFC.

RPAC Membership Vacancies

BJ welcomed Brian Nixon, the newly appointed Council Member representing the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. BJ also announced that Adam Webster is the new Council Member representing the restaurant industry. The Council looks forward to their involvement. DNREC presented a table listing Council Members and their current terms. BJ advised the Council of the table and particularly those terms that expire in August of 2014. The law indicates that Members are not to serve more than two consecutive terms without at least a year off Council. Dick expressed concern that he is literally "it" at the Delaware Association of Counties and has served on Council since inception. Marj discussed the possibility of a legislative change to remove the restriction on consecutive terms. BJ offered to discuss this issue with the Governor's Office.

Universal Recycling Grant and Loan Program

BJ announced that there has been encouragement from the General Assembly to support the City of Wilmington's application from last cycle. He also received an email from the DNREC Cabinet Secretary expressing interest in funding up to \$1 million via a loan and up to \$150,000 via a grant. BJ expressed concerns about a single-cart vendor whose costs are around \$900,000. In talking with the City, he was told that the City would go through competitive bidding. BJ also was concerned that there might be no consequences if a municipality defaulted on a loan. Others had concerns about some details lacking in the application. Bill suggested the application be reviewed by the Grants Subcommittee to address concerns as would normally occur with applicants that need follow up. Bob Z. said that Wilmington residents get rewarded by how much they recycle and would now be penalized by (pay for) how much they trash. So people will likely be mixing their trash with their recyclables. Mike P. added to this point saying that while DSWA does not currently manage the City's recyclables, when they did in the past, the recyclables were very dirty. Now standards are even higher and contamination is a bigger concern when collecting recyclables. Others questioned how the City addresses this concern, but the application does not address it. The RPAC passed a motion to support DNREC funding of the City of Wilmington project via a loan of up to \$1 million and a grant of up to \$150,000 provided that concerns of the Grants Subcommittee are addressed by the City. The following Members voted in favor: Marianne, Dick, Coralie, Marj, Stan, Mike F., Paul, and Brian. The following Members voted against: Mike P. and Bob. The following Members abstained: BJ and Julie.

Bill M. announced that the Grants Subcommittee had a conference call on preliminary thoughts for the next cycle of grants. He reviewed some discussion points. BJ suggested the application period begin in June or July and end in August to avoid too much of a workload on the Council close to November when the Annual Report is due. DNREC will draft a revised guidance document and distribute it to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will plan to have a recommended guidance document and timeline for full Council approval at the June 23rd meeting.

Recycling Market Update

Paul said paper markets are unchanged and still relatively low. Mike P. said single-stream is also low and unchanged, at about \$0/ton right now.

Old/New Business

Following a question about House Bill 198, a plastic bag bill, Marj said she has heard of no movement on that. She added that there may be a bill proposed in the Senate that extends the sunset date in the current law and allows local governments to implement their own fee or ban. Marj clarified that neither of these bills were efforts of DNREC.

Mike P. announced that folks may see some local advertising of carton recycling. By cartons, he means things like milk cartons and juice boxes which are also called aseptic containers. The Carton Council contacted DSWA for advice on a public awareness campaign they plan on conducting this summer in Delaware.

Additional Public Comments - None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2014 at 1:30 at DSWA's Education Building at 1101 Lambson's Lane in New Castle. The DSWA will arrange for a tour of ReCommunity and a tour of Revolution Recovery. One will likely be before the meeting and the other will be after. BJ may invite some of the local legislators. The Council will be emailed the details in advance.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.